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INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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S-E-C-R-E-T

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REPORT

SUBJECT Oroszlany Coal Mine

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This is UNEVALUATED Information

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a three-page report, with sketch,
concerning the Oroszlany Coal Mine in Hungary.

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1. Location: Oroszlany, northwest Hungary; located on a branch of the Kisber-Banhida ^{main} railroad line.

2. Geographical location:

The mine is located in the vicinity of the community of Oroszlany, 10 kilometers south of Tatabanya, Komarom Megye. It belongs to the coal basin of the Vertes Mountains. Oroszlany is located south of the Kisber-Banhida railroad line. Near the village of Kecsked a branch of this railroad runs south to Oroszlany.

3. The mine, belonging to the Tatabanya Coal Trust, produces brown coal. Its official title is "Oroszlanyi Szenbanyak Allami Vallalat". The mine consists of four shafts and an above-ground/mining area, the latter of which has been converted into three drop shafts. A fourth shaft was to be opened during the past few weeks.

Officials of the technical management of the mine include: chief engineer Szebeny; mine foreman Lolcz; chief cutter Batky.

Shaft XVI is located 3 kilometers south of Shaft XVIII. The two shafts are linked underground. They are twin shafts. The fitting out of this shaft is done through Shaft XVIII, and the cable railway is used by both shafts.

The labor force includes 50 technical personnel, 420 political prisoners, 400 free workers, and 20 women, who service the transporting machines above-ground.

Shaft XVII is located 4 kilometers southwest of Shaft XVI. The exit of the shaft is located in the woods. Type of workers is the same as in the case of Shaft XVI.

Shaft XVIII is located 2 kilometers west of the town of Oroszlany. The labor force includes 50 technical personnel, 700 political prisoners, and 200 free workers. Only male Hungarian citizens are employed.

Shaft XIX, ~~is~~ located next to Shaft XVII, is called the Sikfoldi Shaft; it has not been in operation since the spring of 1954, when the mine was inundated. If ~~the~~ Shaft XIX can be successfully drained, and after the development of ~~of~~ the above-ground installations [open-pits ?] 1, 2, and 3 into drop shafts is completed, Oroszlany will be ~~one~~ of the highest producing mines in Hungary.

Production at the mine is as follows (in carloads per day):

Shaft XVIII	1,800
Shaft XVII	2,100
Shaft XVI	2,100
Shaft XIX	600
Drop shaft No 1	2,000
Drop shaft No 2	2,000
Drop shaft No 3	2,000

Since one carload equals 0.6 ton, daily output is therefore 7,560 tons. The number of personnel employed in above-ground mining [open-pit] is not known.

Shaft XVIII has always exceeded its norm. The usual norm for a 3-man brigade is the filling of 20 mine cars during one shift. Working time is 8 hours, and work is done in 3 shifts.

4. Transportation

No railroad runs to the mine. From the Kisber-Banhida main line a single-track railroad runs from the village of Kecked to the terminal at Oroszlany. Transportation of coal is handled exclusively here. At the station is an installation for sorting coal (see No 1 on the sketch). A cable railway runs to this sorting point (see No 3 on the sketch). This sorting point lies about 400 meters south of the Oroszlany railroad station. At the sorting installation are 8 tracks for transporting coal. Loading of ~~2~~ freight cars is done at this point. Internal transporting of materials takes place only by trucks. The daily output is transported by cable railway. The inner connecting roads are ~~xx~~ well built, but not paved.

Electric power is supplied by the Banihida power plant. In the event of a power

failure, power may be drawn from the Oroszlany plant.

5. Security

The entire security operation is carried on by prison guards. They watch not only the prison guards [sic, presumably prisoners], but also oversee the entire security system. A branch of the political police maintains an on-the-spot check. There are 135 guards. Shaft XVIII is surrounded by a wire fence. Next to the barbed-wire entanglement there are 7-meter-high watch towers spaced 60 meters apart with searchlights and machine guns. The guards and patrols carry submachine guns day and night. There is no fire department at the mine; the fire departments in Tatabanya and Banhida are available to the mine when they are needed. It is noted that the continual complaints of the directors indicate that the installations in the mine are in very bad condition. Danger from firedamp is great.

6. Explanation of the Sketch

- 1) Railroad station
- 2) Coal sorting place
- 3) Cable railway station

